

COVID-19 Vaccination and Pregnancy

We remain optimistic and hopeful as more of our population receives the COVID-19 vaccine and cases continue to trend downward. We also reaffirm our position and **encourage everyone to get vaccinated as soon as they have access to do so.**

While data is still limited regarding pregnant women who have received one of the COVID-19 vaccines, here is the latest:

- The initial data from animal developmental and reproductive toxicity studies is reassuring. No safety concerns were demonstrated in rats that received the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine before or during pregnancy; studies of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine are ongoing.
- Based on how mRNA vaccines work, they are unlikely to pose a specific risk for people who are pregnant. However, the actual risks of mRNA vaccines to the pregnant person and their fetus are unknown because these vaccines have not been studied in pregnant women.
- Researchers have studies planned in people who are pregnant.
- Both vaccine manufacturers are monitoring people in the clinical trials who became pregnant.
- Pregnant people are at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

OB-GYN Specialists strongly supports the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) Maternal Immunization Task Force in urging that the COVID-19 vaccine be made available to pregnant individuals. We recognize that getting vaccinated is a personal decision, and we encourage you to speak with your healthcare provider to discuss any specific questions or concerns.

Additionally, we would like to share a recently published letter and small study in the New England Journal of Medicine regarding the efficacy of the COVID-19 vaccines against the new strains that have emerged of the virus. The good news is that the **vaccines are still effective against most of the new strains**. There is concern that the antibodies may be less effective against the new South African strain (B.1.351), however the immune response is not limited to antibodies, and we continue to recommend receiving the vaccine as soon as it is made available.

As always, we appreciate the trust you place in us. We are proud to share that 100% of our staff have now been fully vaccinated, and we remain committed to minimizing any risk of exposure to our patients. We will share more data as it becomes available and will update you with any new studies that may influence decisions that you need to make for yourself and your family.